

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method of selectively installing software onto a computer system, said method  
2 comprising:  
3 reading a configuration file that contains computer system information;  
4 determining an encrypted key from one or more bytes from the configuration  
5 file;  
6 deciphering data stored on a nonvolatile storage device using the key.
- 1 2. The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein the configuration file includes a  
2 BIOS/DOS memory file.
- 1 3. The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein the BIOS/DOS memory file is stored  
2 in nonvolatile memory connected to the computer system.
- 1 4. The method, as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
2 storing the key in a registry file.
- 1 5. The method, as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
2 copying the deciphered data onto another nonvolatile storage device connected  
3 to the computer system.
- 1 6. The method, as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
2 checking the authenticity of the key.
- 1 7. The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein the reading and the determining are  
2 performed by a software program stored in a dynamic linked library.
- 1 8. The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein the nonvolatile storage device includes:  
2 a CD-ROM device; and  
3 a CD-ROM.

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1 9. The method, as recited in claim 1, wherein the nonvolatile storage device stores  
2 the data on a Web Page that is accessible on a global computer network.

3 10. A computer system for selectively installing software, said computer system  
4 comprising:  
5 a processor;  
6 nonvolatile memory operatively coupled to the processor;  
7 a nonvolatile storage device;  
8 one or more configuration files;  
9 a computer program executable by the processor, wherein the computer  
10 program is capable of reading a configuration file stored in the  
11 nonvolatile memory, determining an encrypted key from one or bytes  
12 read from the configuration file;  
13 wherein the encrypted key is capable of deciphering data stored on the  
14 nonvolatile storage device.

1 11. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, wherein the configuration file  
2 includes a BIOS/DOS memory file.

1 12. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
2 a second nonvolatile storage device; and  
3 a registry file stored on the second nonvolatile storage device;  
4 wherein the encrypted key is stored in the registry.

1 13. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
2 a second nonvolatile storage device that stores the deciphered data.

1 14. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, wherein the computer software is  
2 further capable of checking the authenticity of the encrypted key.

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1 15. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, wherein the software program is  
2 located in a dynamic linked library.

1 16. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, wherein the nonvolatile storage  
2 device includes:

3 a CD-ROM device; and  
4 a CD-ROM.

17. The computer system, as recited in claim 10, wherein the nonvolatile storage  
device stores the data on a Web Page that is accessible on a global computer  
network.

1 18. A method of selectively installing software, said method comprising:  
2 reading a configuration file that contains computer system information;  
3 determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration file;  
4 storing the key in a registry.

1 19. The computer readable medium, as recited in claim 18, wherein the configuration  
2 file includes a BIOS/DOS memory file.

1 20. A computer readable medium for selectively installing software onto a computer  
2 system, the computer readable medium comprising:

3 means for reading a configuration file that contains computer system  
4 information;  
5 means for determining a key from one or more bytes from the configuration  
6 file;  
7 means for storing the key in a registry.

1 21. The computer readable medium, as recited in claim 20, wherein the configuration  
2 file includes a BIOS/DOS memory file.

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